

USDA/Rural Development

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News Release

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USDA ANNOUNCES FEDERAL FUNDING

(City of Hardin to Receive a \$3,680,000 Loan and Grant)

Hardin, Texas, July 17, 2002 — Bryan Daniel, state director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced today that the City of Hardin received a \$1,000,000 loan and a \$2,680,000 grant through the agency's Rural Utilities Service Water and Waste program. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems.

"One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to provide water and wastewater treatment programs that target public health benefits and provide economic opportunities to America's rural communities," said Daniel. "With lower populations and tax bases than urban areas, rural residents can utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

The funds will be used to install a wastewater collection and treatment system to replace the current failing individual on-site systems. The construction of the central treatment system will solve compliance issues with the state regulatory authority. There will be 383 households served.

In Fiscal Year 2001, \$65.5 million of loan and grant assistance was infused into 29 rural Texas communities. USDA's water and wastewater program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities of fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operated on a nonprofit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Huntsville Local Office at (936) 291-1901, Ext. 4.

USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Lender, Provider, and Employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

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The USDA Rural Development mission area was created in 1994 and includes the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the Rural Housing Service, and the Rural Utilities Service. Its mission is to use the resources of USDA to provide an improved quality of life for the nation's 53 million rural people.

For more information on USDA Rural Development programs in Texas, check our web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

